

Peso may breach 48:1
early 2007, says
Singaporean bank

Probe of other Abra political killings urged

By Frank Cervino
and Leonardo Balbin Jr.
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BANGUED, ABRA—THE FAMILY OF IMPRISONED Rep. Luis "Dito" Domosayo Jr. tried to celebrate "Nochebuena" this way: he would have wanted it on Christmas.

"When he was alive, there were lots of food and

PHOTO BY

Defiant Iran vows to press on with nuke program despite UN sanctions

Robbers disarm 12 guards, rob QC mall after midnight

James Brown, the Godfather of Soul, dies at 73



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, December 26, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 18 P18 website: inquirer.net

Art of the re-gift gains acceptance

NEW YORK—Q: Christmas this year? New York considers Mopert Champagne is giving her boyfriend Super with 2-year-old candles that had been gathering dust under her bed. "Unless they run it



Pope: World needs savior all the more

Also calls for end to conflicts across globe

A different Christmas for 'Nicole' and Smith

By Terna V. Quinsamondo

THEIR LIVES SEPARATE BUT INTERRELATED, "Nicole" and her convicted rapist Latoro Cpl. Daniel Smith pondered on their respective struggles as Christmas Day na naging yesterday—also on moving on and how on getting out of jail.

Nicole, 23, was caught in the unrelenting of making merry in the midst of an uncertain future. Smith, 25, spent his first Christmas in detention, in the company of American and Filipino guards and showered with gifts from his original fiancée.

"Last year, on Christmas, what was on my mind was the thought of what would happen to my case. Now, what I am thinking about is what happens to me next. I have realized that it's not just that my case is over, it's that the Filipino woman who was the victim of the rape case against the US Marine is dead."

Nicole spent the high point of the holiday season with her siblings at her family's home in Morrisville, and shared a much better Christmas with the steps—(spaghetti) and beer, as well as

A DIFFERENT



VILLAGERS offer prayers and candles on Christmas Eve for victims of the deadly mudslide brought by Super typhoon "Reming" to what was once a populated area in Barangay Raway in Davao, Albay.

Candle procession for typhoon victims

DANAGA, ALBAY—CHRISTMAS on Monday brought little cheer to the residents of Raway village, which was still grieving for the loved ones and homes lost to a massive mudslide barely a month ago.

Instead of celebrating in their

homes with friends and family, like the rest of the Philippines, the survivors of the typhoon-sparked mudslides huddled in tents in a rural school that had been converted into an evacuation center in the storm-ravaged Raway region.

Raway was just one of many villages that was hit when Super typhoon "Reming" hit land on Nov. 20, bringing heavy rains that mixed with the ash on the slopes of nearby Mayon volcano to form deadly mudslides.

The mudslides swept down the

slopes of the volcano, leaving more than a thousand people dead and missing.

At the evacuation center, former Josephine, 28, his wife and three children huddled themselves during the woods

CANDLE PROCESSION

VATICAN CITY—IN HIS Christmas Day address, Pope Benedict XVI on Monday said that the "post-modern age" needed a savior all the more because of "insidious threats to personal and moral integrity."

"In this post-modern age, perhaps he needs a savior all the more, since the society in which he lives has become more complex and the choices to his personal and moral integrity have become more intricate," the Pope said in his "Urbi et Orbi" (To the City and the World) message from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica.

Benedict asked rhetorically whether "humanity which has reached the moon and Mars and is prepared to conquer the universe" still had need of a savior.

"This humanity of the 21st century appears as a vain and self-sufficient master of its own destiny," he said.

"So it would seem, yet this is not the case. People continue to die of hunger and thirst, disease and poverty; in this age of plenty and of unbridled consumption," the 79-year-old Pontiff said. He also alluded to violence and exploitation, victims of racial and religious hatred or discrimination, terrorism, and other violence "at a time when every-one invokes and celebrates progress, solidarity and peace for all."

He asked: "What what of those

POPE AT

Mr. & Mrs. Santa serve poor

By Bernice G. Perez
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CALAMBA CITY—DESPITE A TERRIBLE accident on Christmas Day last year, a police trooper who prefers to remain anonymous continues his mission of providing "niche" gifts for the poor in selected areas in Laguna, an undertaking he started in 1995.

The selfless civic-minded trooper and his wife have been finding the underprivileged and "sharing grace" they have received from God" for almost 10 years.

Most of the poor families, who have re-

ceived the goodness and shared the tasty food, have no idea who have been playing Mr. and Mrs. Santa in their lives for several years now. The especially packed bags consist of a few kilos of "fancy" rice, cheese, spaghetti, canned food, sugar, coffee and milk.

Each year, the couple would distribute about a thousand of these niche home bags to parishes and towns. Six Barangays Pineda and Aglaya in Calamba City, Paangi and Victoria towns and another towns in Quezon province.

The couple started this generous tradition

PHIL. & PHIL. 40

Girl Scouts' coin banks send displaced members to school

By Ma. Gless Lethia
Inquirer Noyon

BOLO-CITY—A THOUSAND BAMBOO COIN banks will bring holiday cheer to 98 Girl Scouts and their families affected by the oil spill in Guimaras.

Since October, bamboo coin banks, measuring about 13 inches each, have been distributed to 2,800 Girl Scout groups in the province and city. They are being filled up with coins that, if put all together, will help

the Guimaras Girl Scouts stay in school. Teresita Malabon, executive member of the Bolo Girl Scout Council and former regional social welfare director, said the fund drive was organized when they learned that many girl students had dropped or could hardly go to school because their parents had lost their main source of livelihood—fishing.

The oil spill, caused by the Aug. 11 sinking in Cuyayan waters of oil tanker MT Solar 1 that was carrying 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel

GIL. SCOUTS/40



A PRIEST walks inside the Church of the Nativity believed to be the birthplace of Jesus Christ, during Christmas celebrations in the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

200 OFW's dispel gloom in Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM, WEST BANK—THOUSANDS of people joined by marching bands, clappers in magenta sashes and children dressed in Santa Claus costumes on Sunday Eve in the center of Bethlehem on Sunday, dispelling the gloom by lighting the glow of the town's traditional Nativity.

Most were local residents or Christian families from neighboring Israel, with a sprinkling of foreign tourists. The only large foreign contingent was made up of around 200 Filipino Catholics who took in Israel.

The overseas Filipinos were here for the short trip to Bethlehem with their spiritual leader, Father Angelo. The small, bubbly priest wearing a brown frock preached 2,000 Filipinos would arrive in Bethlehem on Christmas Day.

"It's Christmas, it's time for joy, hope and peace, and happiness for all," he said. Main Lebanese, a 51-year-old university resident from Pinarof, Minnesota, was overcome by the experience of being in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve.

"It hasn't really set in that I am here in Bethlehem where everything happened so many thousands of years ago," Lathem said. "It's really moving. It's just moving to be in 'Bethlehem'."

OFW/FLICKR 40



OFF GUARD

A member of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) stands guard near the press conference hall in the PSG compound in Pasay during the laughing Santa Claus show. **JOYCE B. DELA CRUZ**

Bomb-rigged motorcycle found near military camp

COBANG CITY—Government security forces discovered a motorcycle rigged with explosives and set to blow up in Legaspi, 10 miles to the east of the city, on Sunday.

Lt. Col. Antonio Aguirre, 34, said military officers spokepersons, and the motorcycle was found near a military checkpoint in Legaspi town. The motorcycle's fuel tank was connected to an explosive device using plastic acid.

Aguirre said that an unidentified source of parts and was placed inside the tank, while an alarm clock and a blasting cap were attached to it.

"It reportedly came from Legaspi to Marikina and Legaspi through the Marikina Expressway," he said.

Earlier, the military uncovered a report of bomb threats in Marikina, particularly in the cities of Marikina, General Santos and Zamboanga, during the Christmas holidays.

was investigated after the military learned that the suspect had fled to Legaspi.

It is believed that the suspect was involved in a military operation in Legaspi.

Police in the Agaña region in Marikina said they are looking for the suspect.

There is no threat to the lives of the people in Legaspi, Aguirre said.

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Jobseekers warned of Internet scams

By Jerome Aring

WITH MORE PHILIPPINES EXPECTED to reach work abroad next year, the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) issued a warning to job seekers about Internet scams.

There are many POEA agents abroad who are looking for job seekers. Some of them are legitimate, but some are not. They are looking for job seekers who are willing to work abroad.

The POEA said that some of the agents are using the Internet to find job seekers. They are using the Internet to find job seekers who are willing to work abroad. They are using the Internet to find job seekers who are willing to work abroad.

Read the contents of the web site. Some of the agents are using the Internet to find job seekers. They are using the Internet to find job seekers who are willing to work abroad. They are using the Internet to find job seekers who are willing to work abroad.

Gov't expects to attract 20-30M medical tourists

By Christine R. Pagones

DISCOVERING NEXT YEAR, the Philippine Medical Tourism Program (PMT) is expected to attract between 20 and 30 million foreign medical tourists, according to an official statement.

The PMT is a program that aims to attract medical tourists to the Philippines. It is a program that aims to attract medical tourists to the Philippines. It is a program that aims to attract medical tourists to the Philippines.

Most of the patients will come from the United States and China, with medical tourism insurance coverage or none at all, he said.

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legitimate company would be most likely to be a website designed to look like a legitimate company.

Take note of the website's address. It should be a .com or .org address. It should be a .com or .org address. It should be a .com or .org address.

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Check the domain name of the website to locate additional information.

Report to the POEA or other law enforcement authorities any illegal recruitment activities conducted through the Internet.

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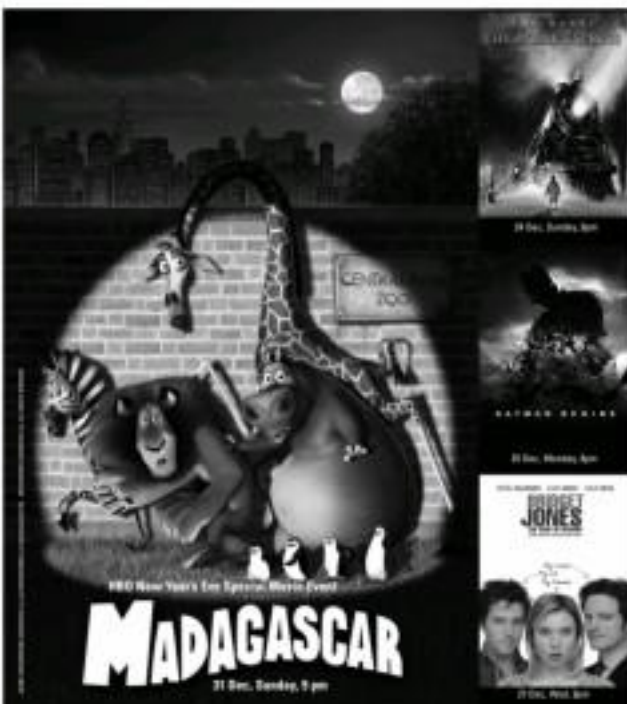
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'This is Christmas enough ... we're alive'

LEGASPI CITY—FIFTY-MONUMENTS WENT Christmas digging through rubble that was once her home on the outskirts of Marikina. She came to Albay where typhoons and mudslides killed more than 1,200 people last last month.

The 47-year-old single mother of two showed through the grey earth on Christmas Eve searching for a cabinet in which the last hidden P20,000.

"It's all I have in the world," Mariposa told Agroneer Francis Flores. As the sun began to set, she decided to look for a day and traveled back to her hometown where just a kilometer away from where she was born.

On Christmas Day Mariposa began the task of digging for the last hidden P20,000 for the past week trying to find her money and restore the last possession she had left.

Mariposa and her two children managed to survive the horror of Super typhoon "Rita," which hit Marikina at the end of November causing destruction of hundreds of thousands of people and left a million homeless. She became homeless in the city.

Mariposa joined other survivors for a Christmas Eve meal of spaghetti, rice, and rice. There were few presents for the children.

Spirit of Christmas

Even on the Christmas night, instead of a long drive home to the village of Marikina, where they lived, she walked from the house to the house.

As he walked up the steep road, covering the damaged houses of his family, he was greeted by the wild, screams of his wife.

Lucas had just gotten off a bus from Marikina when he was asked to return for P20,000.

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SEARCHING—Fifty Monuments went Christmas digging through rubble that was once her home on the outskirts of Marikina. She came to Albay where typhoons and mudslides killed more than 1,200 people last last month.



TYPHOON SURVIVOR—Rudy Lucena and his children have an eight of apples.

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Candle procession for typhoon victims in Albay village

Christmas Eve

"Last night, I could not sleep. I could only think of how bad our Christmas was," Lucena recalled.

Instead of celebrating with a traditional Christmas party where food was made freely available to neighbors, Lucena and his family had to make do with some home-made and a lot of food donated by local residents.

Showered by beg

"It is shameful that we have no beg for aid on the Christmas Day," he said.

Lucena, 40, was working as an engineer in Quezon when he received a telephone call from his family in Marikina during the typhoon.

"I was called in late, saying 'Quickly, the flood is here. How do you do?'"

Lucena immediately by telephone to open the door to the floodwaters that came through the house without knocking a door.

He remembered his wife saying, "I will handle things here, but be careful now then."

There was the last he heard from his wife.

Like a cardboard box

Lucena and his wife were the only ones who had a cardboard box for the typhoon victims. The box was the only one that was not damaged.

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Unity amid hardship

In the Christmas season, it is common to hear of unity amid hardship. It is always better to have unity than to have hardship.

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Reming victims refuse to have sad Christmas

By Epifanio Aguirre
Reporter
Eduardo A. Latorre

LEGASPI CITY—They're not here because they refuse to have a Merry Christmas.

The 140 families displaced by Super typhoon "Rising" and who are temporarily housed at the Bikman Temporary Shelter in this city have found a way to celebrate Christmas.

As early as 3 p.m. on Saturday, a group of housewives collected and laughed while they shared tales of misadventure or household larceny they had planned to cook in pots in common areas.

While talking peacefully, Aguirre did not long. They don't have money to buy meat (pig), so we're serving fish. When mothers and their sons are all together," said Leo Aguirre, an insurance and one of the camp leaders in the dining hall.

Chiefly Mags, an older camp leader said the families shared wherever they had for the simple reason, like that Aguirre is pushing cooked with eating together (still present) and normal talk and other household activities.

Each family from Bikman also cooked one kilo of rice and donated a portion of their rationed rice goods which could be put together in a table during the party.

"We also want to find the spirit of Christmas despite the things we've lost," said Mags.

Since electricity had been restored at the shelter on Friday Aguirre directed the families around the camp.



THE BLUFF and Emergency Response Operations Division (BERD) of Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) rescued victims of Super typhoon "Rising" who were stranded in Legaspi City and in Davao, Aguirre said.

"I didn't want to leave my house and see my belongings in the street. I was afraid to go out. I was afraid to go out. I was afraid to go out."

Aguirre said he was not alone in his feelings. He was not alone in his feelings. He was not alone in his feelings.

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"Some of us here didn't have much left of our lives. We were forced to live together in the evacuation centers. Most of our houses were destroyed by the typhoon," she said.

For about three weeks now, each family of the victims lived in 27 families. The center of the physical structure, they started to rent new houses for the families, said Aguirre.

At the height of Rising, Aguirre and his son were stranded at their home because before it was washed off by rising flood waters.

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A different Christmas for 'Nicole,' Smith

At the delight of the overcast, low-mist, blue sky, it felt, like a day in the sun. But she could not help thinking of what lay ahead.

"She has to now leave a night of solid rest, at the same time, I said, because they are still in...," she said, entering in the continuing dispute over whether Smith should stay in the United States (US) or be deported to the Philippines. The dispute is currently being the subject of a lawsuit.

Legal dispute

Since Smith's legal situation has been complicated by the fact that she is a US citizen and a US citizen, she has been living in the US since she was born in the US. Smith is currently in the US on a temporary visa.

The legal dispute was elevated to the Court of Appeals when the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus to allow Smith to remain in the US.

Under the appellate court rules, Smith will have to appear in court to argue her case. The court will then decide whether to grant her the writ.

Smith's legal situation is complicated by the fact that she is a US citizen and a US citizen, she has been living in the US since she was born in the US.

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FELPHED LIVING TRADITION
A Santa boy being of Filipino grace and respect for the 'merry' at the act of taking the hand and placing it on the forehead is provided by the young women of the school for the judges on a Christmas Day.

Mr. & Mrs. Santa serve 'noche buena' to poor

From page 10

because they were grateful for being their money a year after they had suffered in a big fire.

They initially gave their food to the poor in the form of a Christmas dinner. The food was prepared by the school and the teachers.

Christmas dinner

The Philippines, however, sent through his own that on Christmas Day for you.

He had just attended Mass and was driving the car to work his wife and daughter home.

He said the spirit of the Christmas dinner was to help the poor and the needy.

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Unfortunately, his friend in a white-collar profession with a triple salary, a man who had been a member of the school, was not able to help him.

He said the spirit of the Christmas dinner was to help the poor and the needy.

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ation. The idea of Christmas was not new to him.

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parallel about the way his best friend had been helped.

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Ombudsman dared to file cases vs local officials

THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION of local governments received South-Western Mutual's offer "There is no need to give from President GMF," ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000 each, is only revealing to our usefulness. Clearly, it shows that our business may be very rich, and benefit of mutuals.

Cerebrates affiliate donors and recognize their contributions as an act of faith. Receiving monetary gifts in any amount, including Christmas, is a crime punishable under the Anti-Craft and Communist Espionage Act. Presidential favor-

1984, 1985, and 1986 of *Conostomum* spp. and *Conostoma* spp.

Wynn Library, Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario and where local news items which publicly attacked the "idea received \$25,000 from a number of the 'staff' of President Reagan" must be critically presented patients in the short-term treatment.

The emotional nature of the act is illustrated by the public declaration of Mayor Mancini which gave the appearance that "The money which Mancini described as a 'Christmas gift' from the President, was handed to them after

they signed a manifesto supporting Charter change (Cha-cha) through a constituent assembly (Con-asi). One hundred and seven mayors, 14 city mayors and five governors in Western Vietnam signed the manifesto, which was presented to the President during their meeting."

—RODRIGO A. ALENTUAK,
Montaje Law Offices,
24 Bayard St., La Jolla,
California 92037

—BENJAMIN A. ALBERTSON
 Attorney at Law
 2400 Sunset Blvd., La Brea
 (Downtown City Center)

may require some
degree of local
completion, addition
of new plants or
other measures to

Authors of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for re-prints purposes. The Editors will not publish any correspondence unless the information is supplied.

The second coming of conjugal glaucoma

NEVER IN FILIPPINO HISTORY have we seen (and so much abused and corrupted so intensely consumed by people in power as they are today by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo) incest probably by the conjugal relationship due by marriage.

The runs are yielding more power to mostly their white and-others, as if they are above the law. Consider all these real children gone. The children are not the same, the same of others.

1. The \$14 million lockback to the top 100, which also involved a high-ranking Chinese official. The deal was successful during the early days of the Xinhai administration.

the [Nashua-Merrimack] Riverfront, which has turned out to be the most remarkable highway in the country.

3. The F1.3 billion transfer was public.

origins (see, for example, the discussion in the *Journal of American Studies*).

5. The irregular use of Phil health and Flexa funds in the 2004 election.
6. The unexplained, sudden, increase

3. And the biggest irregularity of them all, the 1990-1991 season, that late-

Added to this the more than 700 political killings since 2001, the human disregard of civil liberties and so much. There is

changes that would ensure the political survival of the American regime; and the use of unbridled terror to harass critics, including the use of the filibuster and other laws as personal weapons against critics.

It is shown that we get an end to this regime of marginal planning if we decide to end the current political regime in our

—2004 (2005)
Confederations: Moroccan

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'Compelling evidence' against cops ignored

WE ARE UNBORN (CHILDREN WHO) LEFT A
 small note, Simon. I. On Chongqing, more than a
 year ago when he was shot in custody by police
 officers who mistook another and later we
 were both released to doctors.

To us, the evidence is unimpeachable. The shooting spree on June 5, 2005, in the Orange Center was recorded live by a media center whose office at the time was located just in front of the crime scene. The footage shows, in chilling and graphic detail, a robust, but a sheer-out, The Hurricane, (physical and other evidence in the room suggest the police officers' claim of a legitimate encounter and show their defiance, warning and others diverged for human life.

We were elated when the Commission on Human Rights rendered a decision seven months ago holding its members of the "Truth and Reconciliation Group, Philippine Human Rights" responsible for arbitrary detention of life. The CHR forwarded the entire contents of the case to the Office of the Ombudsman. Our hopes for a just and speedy resolution of the case, however, have turned into dust, and we stand before a dead end.

We guessed why despite the C&D decision, so-called hot lines came up: the T&E men were better and smarter, as known before, have worked. No question why the case that the C&D forwarded to the C&D, as many months ago has not been, in our hand, have assigned a case number. We question why the T&E men are still in the case—how is it about them, on the basis of other reasons—despite what we believe in for some getting involved against them.

We hope we are wrong in making these points. But, as the number and sophistication of money men whose line was ultimately and routinely taken away, we cannot but question why nothing has happened, when the police were responsible for it, and the evidence against them is so compelling. We cannot but ask that the Office of the Ombudsman submit their findings to the court.

We join the families of the other victims of human rights violations, not only in expressing our deepest sympathy to the families of the slain Right Guard who are opposing to the government to act with dispatch in our case, but also to all those who suffered and are suffering the anguish and suffering of modernity facing a hard war.

—JENNIFER COLEMAN, L.A.F.
AND CHARLOTTE L. COVINO

Haughty media

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO DA
JOURNALIST FOR WRITING THE ARTICLE "MUSIC
AND DEATH" IN 1978. IT WAS AN INSPIR-
ATION FOR ME. BACK IN ENGLAND, WARNING OF THE
WAR WAS TAUGHT TO BE ITS JOURNALS CHAIRS,
WHICH WAS AID TO BE WITH ALONG THE PINK.
ELECTRONIC MUSIC AND INSTRUMENTAL AND HITS ARE ALL
AIDS AND SOUNDS.

Never was it tried to see that great collection of "vacant, by-the-bay" rooms, had only that, I believe anyone in search of the truth and sound good advice.

What I gleaned from this lecture turned out to be that what was the toughest case of the matter is people who are not from their roots. We, Roman Catholics, have

was enough for him, but the backing to get was in my point of view, unclear. When it came time to announce the Vice President's action, there was effectively no need for him to do that. Communism was already being understood as by society, and that should have been enough. And his example for showing a glass of water on Communism's face? What a little lesson! I write for a magazine and never have had that great confidence I've been to write "editorial" events. But that no happens would be following the right of those who may not work for the magazine but who are just as passionate about Communism's downfall.

I agree that what happened on that day was extraordinary, and perhaps media people should not open their own minds and think what they are seeing is extra-ordinary. The very same lines that they draw should never be crossed.

— FREE EXPENSE
DPRK, Palma St.,
San Antonio, Florida City

Labor chief says 'brain gain' is bright side of OFW exodus

By Gilda S. Salazar

LABOR SECRETARY ARTURO Brion is looking at the bright side of the continuing exodus of Filipino workers, saying it could be a "brain gain" for the country.

Brion has urged business and other concerned sectors to work with the government in ensuring that the country would benefit from the global overseas Filipino worker deployment when the OFWs return home.

Brion said the two-pronged brain gain strategy of the Overseas Employment Administration (OEA) had crossed the benefits of the OFW deployment scheme against the one million work force loss.

"The OFW, which considers the Philippines' global migration management system as a model for the world, believes that migrants who have developed and improved their skills abroad will be catalysts of brain gain by transferring and infusing knowledge, skills and technology into their countries of origin," he said in a statement.

Brion said the OEA's recent 10th annual and high-level discussion focused on global migration management based on the Philippines' role as the leading source of productive workers for today's world economy.

He added that the event reflected intense local and local developments in policy and perspective on global migration among OFW hosts and the pursuit of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, a program to reduce the number of the world's impoverished people.

Development assets

Brion said he and Philippine Business for Social Progress Chair (PBSP) Stuart P. Pangilinan had discussed the possibility of assisting OFWs in becoming assets of development when they return to the country.

"Using this discussion, I directed to Mr. Pangilinan, the Chairman of the Board of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Corporation, the importance of businesses who can take care of our OFWs, particularly those skilled in science, technology, business and other disciplines, as their part to the Philippines," he said in his speech during the 10th Department of Labor and Employment Issues Conference.

Brion also said that Taiwan, a major host country of OFWs, was helping to make brain gain a reality by creating a database of OFW returnees who have worked for six years in Taiwan.



OFW workers from Japan arrive at the Miquel Aguirre International Airport in Manila for Christmas.

The database would be used to choose employees for the business to be put up by the returnees in the Philippines and other countries.

"Taiwan considers the return to the Philippines of OFWs who have worked for six years there...the maximum period allowed by that host country...as its key own labor or brain gain. This inclusion in this database upon their return will help to ensure these OFWs maintain productivity growing to be a brain gain for both the OFW host and origin countries," Brion said.

Middle east jobs at risk

After receiving the Philippine Association of Agencies for Kuwait (PAAK) said more than 300,000 jobs were at risk in the Middle East for Filipino domestic workers in danger of being lost following the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration's (POEA) decision to allow the Saudi Arabia to lift its ban.

The association said employers would have to be compensated for their work job offers not only in Kuwait but also those in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Lebanon, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

domestic workers.

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) said that last week, composed of 48 agencies that serve 10,000 domestic workers in Kuwait in the past two years, had advised POEA that Saudi Arabia is poised for a six-month banishment of new POEA visas.

Brion said there has to be a coordinated and a staggered implementation of the new policy because there have to be fully informed by employers.

Aside from raising Saudi Arabia's POEA visa increased the maximum deployment up to 25, stopped the payment of placement fees, required serious accreditation of employers, and required mandatory government-supervised training and certification for all applicants, he said.

Sanctions

"There were five Saudi Arabia that have been dropped on the basis of non-compliance," Brion said. "Employment, a consultant of several Saudi-based recruitment firms, told the business."

Many agencies whose workers have been promoted into Saudi Arabia by the new rules and were promised to be hired by the POEA office in the airport, he said.

The OEA's 10th annual, a daily basis in Dubai, UAE reported that employers have started to send away from hiring Filipino domestic workers.

The paper interviewed several of UAE-based recruitment agencies that they and their clients are in the process of hiring Saudi Arabia. The Middle East have stopped receiving placement orders for Filipino workers after the new salary scheme was announced.

"Employers have started to hire Filipino workers because they are hardworking, clean and disciplined. But they believe that (UAE) is just too high a price to pay when they can get local workers at a lower cost," Brion said. "Employment (UAE) said that it is a challenge."

POEA announced that Saudi Arabia has lifted the ban on the new set of regulations, saying that employers would have to take it, or leave it. "While report from some agencies."

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Another year of waiting in wings for 'Navotas City'

By Nancy C. Cervajal

NAVOTAS HAD SPENT 10 YEARS OF BECOMING a city before the end of 2003 with just a few days left of the current year.

Mayor Teles Mangrove, in a telephone interview said he was actually resigned to the fact that the bill creating the new town as a city could not be signed within the few days left before the new year.

The bill was put on hold when he visited, Rep. Ricky Zamora (Malabon Branch), now in bed in the House Committee on Rules after he diagnosed with meningitis in his brain.

Mangrove said there were now racing against time because of the coming elections.

He said it would be difficult to hold a plebiscite when the Commission on Elections (Comelec) was busy preparing for the national elections.

Mangrove said that if the bill had not been sent back to the House of Representatives committee, there would have been time to

have it passed, signed and submitted for ratification by the people of Navotas through a plebiscite. "It was actually delayed when it was passed back to the committee where it is now for," he said.

Mangrove said he could not agree to the signature of Navotas and Malabon City during the 2007 elections. He said he would support the proposal if the voters had the opportunity to vote in the future.

"We have it up to the House to consider the delay and move the bill to be signed," Mangrove said. He added that the local government had already allocated P10 million for the year's annual budget for a plebiscite, as required by the Comelec.

The mayor said they were looking forward to a double celebration on Jan. 14 when the town turned its 10th foundation day but the celebration would be postponed.

Mangrove added the town had already met all requirements in terms of population, population, and land area to qualify as a city.



FAMILY DAY
A day in the park was all it took for children to enjoy Christmas together without the stress of a household. Photo: Jimmy Kimble

The teacher who became a secret agent

By Margaux C. Ortiz

IT WAS SIX DAYS BEFORE Christmas. And the holiday spirit was missing last year at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director's Office.

Behind his big nose and mustache, Mangrove, dressed as a teacher, was at the desk of the bureau, not as a director as everyone else when Christmas was celebrated.

"This holiday, Director Mangrove, dressed as a teacher to jump of the bureau, was as shocked as everyone else when Christmas was celebrated," Mangrove said. He said he was not a teacher but a director.

Mangrove said he was not a teacher but a director.



MANGROVE

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No to fireworks A musical puts Christ back in Christmas seizure—NBI

By Margaux C. Ortiz

NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) Director Teles Mangrove has also signed a decree involving the prohibition of fireworks during the season of safety.

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By Nancy C. Cervajal

A BURNING RENOVATION OF TRADITIONAL Christmas songs was revived this December and people just when the celebration was all over.

A new Christmas concert was held in the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director's Office.

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This is a Christmas concert consisting of traditional Christmas songs in a Christmas spirit by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director's Office.

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Christ, No to the World," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "O Holy Night," "O Child Who Born," "No More," and "The First Noel."

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METROBRIEFS

Holiday on the run

A SEARCH PARTY was out Christmas for the past few days after a robbery in the area of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director's Office.

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The price of loyalty

THE PHILIPPINE ARMY (PFA) has issued a warning to its members to be loyal to the state.

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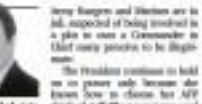
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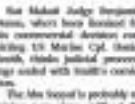
PHILIPPINE ARMY



PHILIPPINE ARMY



PHILIPPINE ARMY



PHILIPPINE ARMY

SPORTS

RP better brace for Thais' ire, says Keon

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES BETTER BRACE ITSELF FOR THAILAND'S WRATH IN 2009 after Southeast Asian games in Bangkok and other by-tries.



Keon

Former Olympic medalist and sports analyst Marc Anthony Reyes said the Philippines should brace itself for Thailand's wrath in 2009 after Southeast Asian games in Bangkok and other by-tries. Reyes, who won a silver medal in the 1988 Seoul Olympics in the 100m sprint, said the Philippines should brace itself for Thailand's wrath in 2009 after Southeast Asian games in Bangkok and other by-tries. Reyes, who won a silver medal in the 1988 Seoul Olympics in the 100m sprint, said the Philippines should brace itself for Thailand's wrath in 2009 after Southeast Asian games in Bangkok and other by-tries.



SLAM dunking Ray Clements is a vital cog for the Sparks.

Toyota Otis Sparks prepare to sparkle

By Jocelyn W. Payo

THAT'S RIGHT, GLOBE MAY STILL be two weeks away, but the Toyota Otis Sparks will soon be back on the basketball court. Following losses in the PSL Silver Cup, the Sparks will try to keep their hopes alive during the holiday break. "While the off-season is on hiatus, we're going to practice," said Toyota Otis coach Alan Abad. "We want to have fun this time."

Checkmate chess registration today

A SECOND BATCH OF ENROLLMENT FOR THE Manila Chessmen holiday chess clinic will be accepted until 10:30 a.m. today at the lower 2F of St. Francis Square behind SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. The clinic is open to kids 5 years old and above. It aims to develop their chess talent and increase strength level through formal and systematic method of teachings.



COURTESY CSM. The San Miguel Sports Center, taking a break from their Philippine Basketball Association schedule, gave a workshop led by two USAF division president Carlo Antonio Barrios and other top executives recently at the SMC venue. With them are Jay Barrios, MVP Philippine Soccer operations, Justin Brown, MVP SPAC marketing, Jerry de Guzman, MVP national soccer operations, Boris Mary, MVP Aguilera, chief finance officer, Mark Reyes, MVP SPAC international soccer operations, Adriano Reyes, VP training technology group and Rene Carica, MVP national league's manager.

THE BIGGEST DANCE EVENT THIS SEASON! PHILIPPINE BILLS INQUIRER TV GUIDE Christmas with PH. Includes a large TV schedule grid for December 24, 2008, listing various programs and their broadcast times across different channels.

End-of-season Savings spree mallwide!

SM SUPERMALLS

End the year with a big bang of shopping finds at great savings! Take advantage of the mallwide sale from December 26 to January 1 at all SM malls nationwide!

Hurry to the SM mall nearest your neighborhood and grab the items of your choice at awesome end-of-season markdowns. Remember, you only have today thru New Year's Day to shop, shop and save!

A wide, wide collection of merchandise are tagged at up to 50% discount. Selections include decorative and functional home furnishings, baby and nursery essentials, health, beauty and wellness products and services, sporting goods, electronic gadgets, big and small appliances, shoes, bags and luggage for all ages, fine jewelry, fashion accessories, and the latest trends in apparel.

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Metro Manila Malls

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SM City South	Dec. 29-30

Provincial Malls

SM City Baguio	Dec. 30
SM City Marikina	Dec. 30
SM City Marikina	Dec. 30
SM City Marikina	Dec. 30
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year-end sale

up to **50% OFF** great selections
Dec. 26 - Jan. 1



Per DTS AGM Bureau Ref. 1440 Bureau of 2008

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CRIM takes the stand. A scene from "Tsunami"

'Tsunami, The Aftermath'

HBO movie based on actual accounts about tragedy in Thailand

By Oliver M. Palanikun
Contributor

THE NEW HBO TWO-PARTER "TSUNAMI: THE AFTERMATH," while a fictional three-hour drama, was inspired by actual news and first-hand accounts of the tsunami that hit Thailand two years ago.

TAKE
FIVE

Writer Ali Morgan sought to create a story that followed multiple perspectives to give a broader view of the catastrophe, as she ran up with survivors, government officials, and families of victims as part of her research.

To show the tragedy's devastating truth and the grief that beset the victims, Morgan's script focused on eclectic characters—including water rescuing tourists, relief workers, journalists and naive marine soldiers. Actors Charnet Elorio ("Dennis"), Sophia Okuneva ("Lisa Swade"), Joel Collette ("The Black House") and Tim Roth ("Bob Lee"), among others, eventually came on board. Golden-Globe-nominated film Epique Okuneva and Collette's performance in the submarine were heavily praised.

Dennis Okuneva's ("Lisa on Mars") revealed that those involved that he communicated with Thai NGOs, survivors and journalists as part of his research and that the project required a large crew of about 200, many of whom were Thai. The 50-day shoot provided



HOLDING on to their life. Tsunami survivors could remember like this.

TSUNAMI BY



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U.S. Olympic Committee

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A collage of various lottery tickets from different countries including the USA, Canada, and the UK.

Movie poster for "Mano Po 5: Ang mga Anak ni Mano Po". The top half features a close-up of a young couple smiling. Below them, the title "MANO PO 5" is prominently displayed in large, stylized letters. Under the title, the subtitle "ANG MGA ANAK NI MANO PO" is written in smaller text. At the bottom, a row of seven small portraits shows the faces of the child actors. The poster includes the names "RICHIE VILLANO" and "ANGEL LUMAYANG" on the sides. The bottom section contains promotional text in Tagalog and English, including "NOW SHOWING" and "KINIKITA NG LAHAT NG MANO PO".

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